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Get out and explore

The Haliburton Sculpture Forest is offering free guided tours throughout the summer. See Page 2.

Scary tales

New authors Jon and Di Nelson share how experiences at camp in Haliburton helped shape their book *Spooky Stuff*. See Page 3.

Finding peace

Karley Stevenson is having fun with her unique business, which merges paddleboarding and yoga. See Page 8.

Tammy Nash of Algonquin Highlands said she captured "a picture of a fisher that I have been seeing this summer on our driveway. It runs around a lot and quite difficult to get a picture of him/her. I sat on our driveway for four hours hoping to get a pic. LOL (Laugh Out Loud) - it was getting too dark out for me to get a pic, so I decided to start packing it up and I saw the bushes moving and it was the fisher. I got a couple shots of it - it's a bit noisy because it was 9pm, but still pretty cool. Oh, and it's quite young and small. Submitted by Tammy Nash.

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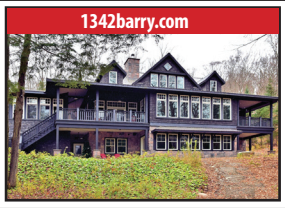

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The Haliburton Sculpture Forest is offering free guided tours to visitors throughout the summer. Every Tuesday in July and August, from 10 a.m. to noon, people will be escorted through the site, which boasts 38 sculptures, including 'Sleep of the Huntress' pictured above, and six unique benches created by Indigenous, international and Canadian artists.

Haliburton Sculpture Forest offering free tours over the summer

MIKE BAKER
County Life Editor

Guided tours will be offered free of charge at the Haliburton Sculpture Forest all summer long.

Every Tuesday in July and August, visitors will have the chance to learn about all that the Sculpture Forest offers on a two-hour complete tour of the site. Tours will take place from 10 a.m. to noon, and will begin at the kiosk in the Fleming College parking lot.

"Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather, as tours are held rain or shine," said Youkie Stagg, Haliburton Sculpture Forest outreach coordinator. "Tours are free, but donations are greatly appreciated."

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, the maximum number of visitors per tour will be 10 people, so Stagg advises those interested in participating should arrive early to reserve their spot.

The Haliburton Sculpture Forest is home to 38 outdoor sculptures and six unique sculptural benches created by Indigenous, international and Canadian artists.

As well as offering complete tours on Tuesdays, the Sculpture Forest will also be providing a curator's selection tour every Wednesday, until Aug. 28.

"Join us for a 40-minute lunch hour tour, starting at 12:10 p.m. Tours will only cover a few sculptures selected by the curator [Jim Blake]," Stagg said.

The Sculpture Forest has a few COVID-19 safety guidelines in place that it asks all visitors to follow – if arriving by car, you are asked to park a few metres away from other vehicles. On the trails, keep two metres (six feet) apart from other visitors, and wear a mask in any situation where you are unable to stay two metres apart, or when passing other walkers. While dogs are welcome, they must be kept on a leash at all times.

Stagg noted that small group tours can be booked for any time over the summer and throughout the year at yoursoutdoors.ca.

More information on the Haliburton Sculpture Forest can be found at haliburtonsculptureforest.ca.

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

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For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

Haliburton summer camp serves as inspiration for new 'spooky' book

MIKE BAKER
County Life Editor

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SPOOKY STUFF
Jon & Di Nelson

From left to right, Di and Jon Nelson spent some of their spare time during the COVID-19 pandemic to pen a series of six 'scream inducing' stories, recently published in the book *Spooky Stuff* pocket tales. /Submitted photo

Jon and Di Nelson still cherish the memories they have of nights sitting around a fire at Haliburton's Camp Wanakita, listening to their favourite counsellors share a whole host of spine-tingling scary stories. Now, years later, the couple has penned a few creepy tales of their own for their new book *Spooky Stuff*.

Released on Amazon in May, the pocket-sized publication contains six short stories that are appropriate for all ages, the Nelsons say.

"We both grew up really enjoying listening to scary stories and reading scary stories… We spent a lot of time around campfires at Wanakita," Di said. "Then, for me, my mom used to tell me scary stories almost every night of the summer when I was younger. We had a cottage on Lake Kashagawigamog, and she was a big Stephen King fan, so she would twist those stories around so they were more kid-appropriate, and we loved that."

They were inspired to write the book last Christmas after taking a walk along Head Lake in Haliburton.

"We were out and just started talking, and we realized just how much we treasure those memories from our past, and we thought 'wouldn't it be cool to be on the other side of that'," Di said. "Having two young kids, and with the pandemic, we were looking for a creative project to give us something to do."

It didn't take them long to hash out a few ideas. Shortly into the new year, they got to work on writing. By April, the stories were complete and Di, an art teacher, had put together illustrations to complement each piece.

They searched for an outlet to publish their book, but found the best option to be Amazon, so they self-published and got things up online within a few weeks. Their initial copy went live on May 5.

"We were actually the number one best-seller [on Amazon] for small stories for children for two or three days after launching, so that was really cool. Unexpected, but cool," Jon said.

Since that initial release, the Nelsons have made a few minor tweaks and edits to the book, and have sold upwards of 150 copies.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with *Spooky Stuff* receiving 37 five-star reviews on Amazon. The Nelsons have also been given good feedback from friends and family, who loved the book.

Jon believes a lot of that has to do with the fact that the stories can be enjoyed by any audience, whether you're a kid or an adult.

"Looking back on some of the books we enjoyed growing up, unfortunately they don't really hold up once you get to being an adult. One of the things we're really enjoying hearing from people, is that parents are enjoying these stories just as much as the kids," Jon said.

The book begins with the story Swamp Island Camp, which Di says has been the most popular thus far.

"Swamp Island is definitely the favourite from what we've heard, which is funny because it's the least scary," Di said. "Basically, it's about a family that can't find a camp for their kids to go to. Their one kid has been kicked out of several summer camps for causing trouble, and so they were asking around and in their end they called up their great grandmother, who told them about Swamp Island Camp. The camp is in the middle of Algonquin Park, and so the family goes. En route, they lose their GPS signal, and have to go down a long, dark trail to get to a drop-off point, where they're met by a single guy at a lake in a row boat. It's a really cool story."

The stories were laid out in such a way that they got progressively spookier and scarier.

Having had so much fun putting together *Spooky Stuff*, the Nelsons are already working on a second volume, which they hope to release in time for Halloween.

"This has really sparked something within us. We had a blast working on the first book, and then our favourite part has been hearing back from families about their experiences of reading the stories out loud with their kids. Some families even told us they got a campfire going, and sat around and read these stories to each other, kind of like how we remember at Wanakita. We just love that," Di said.

For more information, or to purchase a copy of the book, visit www.spooky-stuffbook.com.

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Award-winning piece a statement on climate change

DARREN LUM
County Life Staff

When Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Grade 9 art student Taylor Horsley won the secondary school poster contest Combat Climate Crisis Project, she felt a mix of emotions ranging from surprise to excitement.

"There was a lot going around with Australia and it was burning, so that was the main idea of my work and I wanted to put the tragedy of what was going on there to portray that," she said.

Taylor won with her two dimensional mixed-media piece of a set of lungs, created from a collection of magazine clippings showing various plants, set against varying shades of green in the left lung, and then a repeat of that image across the top half of the right lung, with the bottom half depicting a wall of fire and mixture of browns and shades of sand. The statement "The trees are our lungs, we can't breathe without them," featured predominantly on the piece.

Taylor, who was taking a Grade 10 arts class when she won, received an individual art kit as a prize.

Also part of the contest, a tree was planted at the back entrance of the school by the music class. An accompanying plaque with Taylor's name engraved will be installed in the autumn.

The success related to winning the District 18 Retired Teachers Ontario Project contest has given her inspiration to pursue other arts media for other creations, such as sculpture and collages/mixed media. Before this effort, she had focused solely on drawing and painting.

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Grade 9 student Taylor Horsley, crouches in front of the tree she won, as part of the Combat Climate Crisis Project, with her teacher Karen Gervais, pictured in the distance on Sunday, June 10 at the school in Haliburton. Organized by the District 18 Retired Teachers Ontario, this project was open to art students from Grades 9 to 12 at the school and was designed to raise community awareness of the urgent need for action, as stated in the contest outline. /DARREN LUM Staff

The contest, which was open to any high school student enrolled in an art class, was designed to raise community awareness of the urgent need for action, as stated in the contest outline. The contest included 20 entries. There was also $100 awarded to each participating art department's high school.

Taylor's teacher and the high school's art department head Karen Gervais wrote in an email that "we approached it from more of a fine arts perspective rather than a poster, which is what we did."

The context of the project that the students were working from, Gervais wrote, was they were studying the role of art as activism and were invited to select a subject of interest to inform and persuade others to take action about a specific issue. Some of the students' work has been displayed on the school's website.

Gervais wrote, "Taylor made creative use of the shape of the lungs, which also resembles the shape of leaves to draw attention to our interdependence with nature. She made creative use of colour and contrast to show the impact of climate changes and increase in forest fires and the devastation that results. I also like her use of recycled materials in the creation of this work as the paper itself is a product of trees and reminds us that we can all help to reduce, reuse and recycle."

Principal Chris Boulay and vice-principal Jennifer Mills were invited to select the winner from HHSS, Gervais said.

"This message was very clear and different than the rest and the use of different mediums was great," Mills said.

As part of the contest, the students were asked to describe their work, provide background information about the topic and why it is important.

see page 5

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*David Wolf, H. Allen Klaiber, Bloom and bust: Toxic algae's impact on nearby property values, Ecological Economics, 2017

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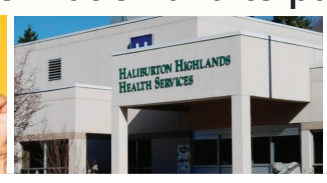

Global climate crisis front-of-mind for HHSS student

from page 4

From Taylor's prepared statement, she said her work is about deforestation in the world.

"Every day more than 200,000 acres of forest are burned, that's around 78 million acres a year. This can lead to climate change and increased greenhouse gases. This topic is important because trees are our source of oxygen, so by destroying them we're endangering ourselves as well," she wrote.

The students were also asked about how they attempted to visually communicate their message, to discuss symbols, media choices, colours, and the use of elements and principles of design.

"I communicated this by making the lungs trees and the right lung being burned by fire. I chose to do lungs because it represents how we breathe. By incorporated trees it relates to the earth and how without either of them we die. I also included a sentence at the top of the page relating to the issue," she wrote.

Taylor welcomed the opportunity to be part of an effort in combating the global climate crisis because she loves the outdoors.

"It can be elegant. It can be ... there is just a variety of things you can see in the outdoors. I think it was a bit tragic and hard to see that it's not thriving very well," she said.

Being more climate-aware has also made Taylor adjust her shopping habits.

She cited how many products contain palm oil, which was part of the growing demand for agricultural spaces and has been behind the destruction of parts of the Amazon Rainforest in Brazil.

"I didn't realize how much we use it in day-to-day life, so it kind of made me think ... even though it's useful and how we use it all the time, that it would be very hard to change it," she said.

Taylor Horsley's mixed-media work, which was chosen as the school's winner of the Combat Climate Crisis Project.

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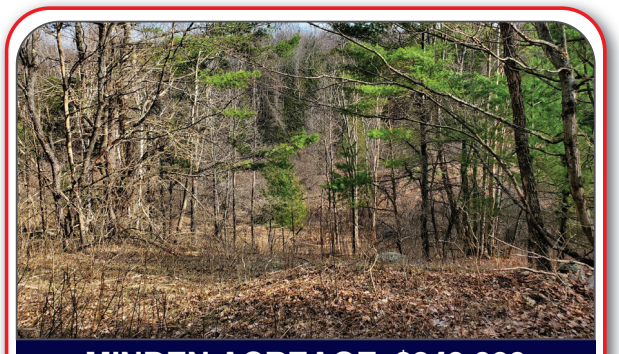

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Wet and wild

THE FIRST MISTAKE was not knowing where the campsite was. As they pushed off into the river Brian told Jack not to worry, he had a pretty good idea of where they were headed. Jack was not reassured. He had experience with his brother's not very precise but optimistic outlook on everything from career opportunities to future wives.

Down Our road

sharon lynch

Their canoe was packed full. Amazing what two men needed for a couple of nights in the bush. Jack had looked after the food and water while Brian had arranged for the campsite. It was not their usual one, which had already been booked. So Brian chose what he told Jack would be great, maybe even a new favourite. Again, Jack was not reassured. He liked their old one. It felt like they were heading into the unknown.

The sky was heavy and dark as they set out, the air warm and humid. A soft breeze rippled across the river as the two men paddled through a thousand shades of green. The water was the colour of olives, thick and oily-looking in the shady light. Overhanging branches arched gracefully at the shore as though admiring their own reflections. Jack felt his anxiety seeping away. It was what always happened once he was far from cars, screens and people and immersed in what he liked to think of as the real world.

They were paddling with the current so it was easy going at this stage. Jack's mind wandered. He thought about the many animals hidden in all that green beneath and around him. At that very moment he saw legs emerging from the trees on his right. There was no time to react because it was over almost before it had begun. In four strides the moose had crossed the narrow channel and disappeared once again. All this while Jack and Brian felt the current carry their amazed selves past the spot of entry and exit.

Then the rain began. Like the start of a familiar tune, it began with a few random drops then picked up speed. In a moment the skies had opened and the downpour arrived. Their gear was properly protected but Jack felt the wet through his clothes as his hand grasped the slippery paddle. He hoped their unfamiliar campsite was close by.

Leaving the river they edged out into the lake. Now the choice was to go right or left. Brian wasn't sure because the map hadn't been clear when he had reserved the spot online. So they guessed and went left. This was the way to their usual spot and Jack hoped it was the right direction. The rain continued.

Now it was raining so hard and fast it was bouncing off the water creating a wet screen all around their canoe. Like fog it blocked out everything else, making it impossible to see where they were or what was nearby. But then Jack saw a large island jutting out through the rain. Brian, yelling over the hail of raindrops, said he thought their campsite was around the other side of the island. But he wasn't sure.

So they paddled on past the tip of the island to the other side. No sign of any campsite though it was very hard to make out anything in the downpour. More paddling. When Jack saw the same tip of the island they had passed earlier, he began to worry. Obviously they were travelling in a circle. It was starting to feel hopeless. They couldn't see and didn't know where they were going. Man he wished his brother had taken greater care when setting this up. He felt trapped, not knowing what to do next.

Then like a miracle the rain stopped. And through the mist that still clung above the water's surface, they saw a clearing on shore to their left. A small sign was posted on a tree. Brian let out a whoop. They had indeed found it after all. Now they just had to unpack and set up camp. Jack wondered what their chances were of finding dry firewood for tonight.

Top 10 things we can learn from cats

WE HAVE had two cats for at least a decade now. You can't help but learn a thing or two when you live with any sentient being for that long. Which is why I licked my paws, and wrote down the top 10 things I have learned from my cats. They are:

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. Disdain and sarcastic looks will get you everywhere.
2. You can bury your problems, but eventually they pile up.
3. If someone brings out a vacuum cleaner, it's time to leave the room.
4. Keep the countertops clear.
5. Vengeance is a dish best served cold – and on the carpet in the middle of the night.
6. You can't really get by on less than 23 hours sleep.
7. Every now and then, you can get away with biting the hand that feeds you.
8. Spit and hiss and most people will leave you alone.
9. Sometimes you have to share the couch.
10. No one wants to see you bathe in public.

All simple

I like mostly simple things: acorns, fog and naps
Sniffing antique pages, finding dimes in gaps
Fragrance of a cottonwood, landscapes done in paints
Buttons, marbles, paperclips, neighbours who are saints

When first flake October-drops, lichens on bare rock
Long blue winter shadows, songbird snubbing clock
Win a round of solitaire, read aloud to child
Owl noise crossing forest dark, buckwheat pancakes piled

Nervous moonlit moth wings, wetlands, beaver dam
Clouds like splaying horsetails, tea, toast, ginger jam
Echo-talk of ravens, hammock for a rest
Pinecone, pun or sturdy boots, circus sky in west

Hummingbird and bumblebee trusting me nearby
Solo tenting quietly, birthdays in July
Kayak slicing river, paddle is my fuel
Compost feeds a planted seed, summer nights grow cool

Cards in mail and plainsong, cherries, finches, peas
Winking women skipping stones, fiddle music, please
Monarchs on the milkweed, water-striders, socks
Apple/ cheddar chewed together, baby's wooden blocks

Ochre, red and purple fields; green and yellow too
Pumpkins, mint and lavender: paradise preview
Simple gifts, all basic - fabric of real years
Fill a life with wonders, before life disappears

Deborah J Reed

Summer colour / KAREN LONDON Staff

Reflecting on gratitude for Indigenous peoples of Canada

BARB ROSEN

Special to *County Life*

As I drove north to my cottage from my condo in Toronto, I turned my thoughts to my connections over the years to Canada's Indigenous population. I felt most connected paddling in my cedar strip canoe at my cottage on Eagle Lake at dawn each morning.

At Sutton, I took the sideroad to pass Georgina Island on Lake Simcoe, home to the Ojibway First Nations' Reservation. I recalled the tour and talk I organized for my adult new Canadian students about 10 years ago, employed as an adult English as a Second Language teacher in Toronto.

About 25 new Canadians found our guide off the beaten track of the Reserve. We took in the natural beauty of Georgina Island. Our guide introduced us to his daughter, his assistant. We were asked to make a large circle and shown native practices including smudging and drumming.

About 20 years ago, I met another Ojibway from the Batchewana First Nation, William. He was employed by the City as in maintenance at a community centre where I taught ESL. During breaks we got to know each other in an informal way. I didn't know he was an indigenous person at first.

"I'm an alcoholic, Barb," he shared. "I haven't taken alcohol in over 10 years. I go to regular AA meetings. I live with my daughter and grandkid."

"I'm separated. I practice yoga and am looking for a meditation teacher," I shared.

"There's a teacher right here on Thursday nights, Barb and you might like these animal native spiritual cards. I don't need them anymore."

"Thanks, William. I'll check out the meditation group and these medicine cards."

I attended the first meditation class. I am still meditating with a sangha. I select a native medicine card daily and still find the teachings helpful. I invited William into my ESL class to talk about what it's like for him as an indigenous person and answer any of their questions. He dressed up to meet the students. He showed them his status card and talked about its benefits.

"You probably know more about Indigenous peoples than me," I remember him saying, and adding, "but I know how to go into the bush."

He invited me out on a date. I picked him up in my car. We went for a burger and chatted and laughed a lot and felt comfortable with each other. About 15 years ago, one Canada Day, I joined with a local public school and we shared presentations. I taught my new Canadian students two Native songs to present, "My Paddle" and "Land of the Silver Birch." They really enjoyed singing these songs experiencing holding paddles in their hands and miming drumming. I particularly remember how a refugee from Afghanistan sporting her customary dress volunteered to hold my paddle for the presentation.

About 20 years earlier I was a history teacher in a Junior High School in Toronto for the TDSB. It was my first year. I let my students explore Canada's Native Peoples. The school librarian supported me and pulled out a lot of library materials. I invited residential school survivor, storyteller, author in English and Ojibway, Ethnologist at University of Toronto, to come to my class to make a presentation to my students. I was having a tough time keeping order in the classroom. When Basil Johnston greeted me at the classroom door he saw my challenges. He walked up and down the aisles and paused and looked at each student making eye contact in silence.

"By the end of this class, we'll all be friends," he said returning to the front of the class and delivering one of his stories, 'The Man, the Snake and the Fox' available now as a National Film Board production.

A couple of weeks back, on Canada Day, I found myself wondering how Basil Johnston, now passed away, survived the residential school system. I'm eager to read his book *Residential Schools.*

As a young child, I remember visiting 'Trading Posts' with my parents in the Muskoka area and delighted to get a small beaded handcrafted Native change purse or woven basket.

As I mentioned, these memories flooded my mind this Canada Day. When I arrived in Minden, I parked my car by the river and wrote this story on a bench. I am filled with gratitude for our Indigenous peoples for: the gift of the canoe and for the gifts of spiritual teachings I have been blessed to receive over the years. I am also filled with sadness at the inequalities and horrors that have revealed themselves this Canada Day.

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Finding peace with yoga on Highlands waters

DARREN LUM
County Life Staff

Karley Stevenson, owner of Wolf Flow SUP, holds a pose on her stand up paddleboard on Horseshoe Lake. Stevenson said she faced chronic neck and back pain, including tension headaches and reuematoid arthritis and found relief with movement while practising yoga. She said combining yoga on a stand up paddleboard on the waters of the Highlands is an amazing experience and she encourages people to try it with her. For more information see www.wolfflowsup.com./DARREN LUM Staff

It's a dream come true for the owner of Wolf Flow SUP Yoga, Karley Stevenson, who is getting to fully embrace the wonders of the Highlands and share the benefits of doing yoga on a paddle board.

Originally from the foothills of Alberta in a place called Black Diamond, Stevenson came to Eagle Lake in November 2014. She was an accountant that had chronic neck and back pain, including tension headaches and rheumatoid arthritis. Although not cured from yoga, she learned movement was helpful. She told her clients she'd be back in three months. Six years later and she remains in the Highlands, offering scheduled classes on Head Lake in Haliburton and on Horseshoe Lake in Minden. Stevenson also offers private sessions.

"Although my heart belongs in the mountains, the lakes and rivers feed my Pisces soul," she said, as posted on her website.

The Highlands is an ideal location for her classes and sessions and satisfies who she is as a self-proclaimed "sun seeker." It's where the immersion of nature heightens the experience of yoga with its stimuli when compared to a conventional studio setting.

"We'll have the loons come and join us. Sometimes the geese. Sometimes the swans. We're able to see sunrises, sunsets, full moons just from a different point of view. You're able to feel the breeze. You're able to notice the board rocking underneath," she said. "It's just a neat experience when you're on the water compared to in a studio because you're outside with all these elements. It forces you to be mindful. It forces you to be in the moment because sometimes in a yoga studio it's easy to be like 'is the dishwasher on? What did I do? Did I lock the house? Are my keys in my car?' Where as when you're out here you're so distracted naturally by everything else occurring that you're just thinking about where you're putting your hand. Where you're putting your foot. Oh, yeah, don't forget to breathe ... you're just automatically living in the moment because you don't have choice."

Stevenson, who has been practising yoga for 12 years, is in her third year of operation.

She has completed 200 hours of training in yoga, which she completed in Costa Rica in June 2018.

Her classes are delivered with step-by-step approach and work to make all participants comfortable, teaching basics about moving on the board and working towards more advanced poses, but still be accommodating for every person, encouraging and emphasizing fun.

"Although it can seem intimidating, because you're on this board on the water moving around, but we're able to start slow. You can start seated. You can start kneeling. You can stand up when you're ready and for the majority of the poses there is room on the boards. The boards are quite stable.. You're able to move around on them. I'm not saying it's always easy, but you can go with what's comfortable to you, so as I'm cueing positions, I'm always cueing my modifications," she said.

> ***"We'll have the loons come and join us. Sometimes the geese. Sometimes the swans. We're able to see sunrises, sunsets, full moons just from a differ-ent point of view."***
>
> — Karley Stevenson

Private sessions can be held at a predetermined location, or Stevenson is open to seeing people where they are. These sessions can be customized related to particular areas of focus related to clients' personal goals. She adds goals can vary from wanting to stand on their heads, to just being balanced enough to be able to get up and down on the board.

Stevenson said she really appreciates the private sessions for the depth of interaction possible.

"Any class is fun, but the privates you're able to build a relationship," she said.

New this year is SUP fit class, which includes Pilates, cardio, HIIT style workout on a paddle board.

Stevenson said it's okay to feel a little anxious when starting yoga for the first time.

"I have struggled myself with insecurities regarding yoga - not being flexible enough. I have my own physical restrictions, which people don't expect with me because I am a petite person. So, I understand that we all have different bodies and we all move in different ways," she said. "The one thing I like about the paddle board yoga is I find it to be more casual than a yoga studio. Although it's intimidating in other ways, because you're on a floating board, it's a little more fun. We try to make it a fun class where you're just trying to not fall in, so there is a lot of laughing."

Starting the business Wolf Flow SUP in the first place came from a realization of the potential of the area and how it can complement her love of sharing the benefits of yoga.

After four years in Ontario, she decided to start her business, Wolf Flow SUP, particularly after witnessing how her cousin out west had done so well establishing a similar business in an area with far fewer bodies of water to use as as venues.

Before starting her business in the Highlands, she started doing yoga on a paddle board on her own and learned how great it was. That was when she knew it was something she wanted to pursue.

"That's when I decided, 'Well, let's just do it.' I was working full-time at the time and it was just going to be a hobby and then my second summer was a COVID summer and then this is my third summer, so I do still work, I do still have another job, but I'm able to focus on this. I have a flexible schedule so I'm able to prioritize this. Ideally, make it something out here. I think it's such a unique experience. It's so cool to get out on the water and just see it from a different point of view, so I really love sharing that."

Check out what's on offer through her website www.wolfflowsup.com.

IF YOU CAN'T SEE CHANGE, IS IT REALLY HAPPENING?

Do you ever wonder where all the minnows went? And whatever happened to all the crayfish that used to live in our streams and rivers? When change happens so slowly that we don't even notice it, it's known as 'change blindness' – and that's exactly what's happening in our County's lakes right now.

Damaging changes to our shorelines are affecting the health of our lakes. But seeing change is the first step in making a difference.

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When we protect our lakes, we protect the priceless memories yet to be made.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2021

Archie Stouffer Elementary School Gr. 8 Graduates

Emily Fitzell received a surprise visit with the announcement that she had been named Archie Stouffer Elementary School's valedictorian. In her speech at the elementary school virtual graduation on June 21, she told the 2021 graduating class that, "Everything we do now is for our future, this is just the beginning." /Submitted photo

Ms. Austin, Mr. Gervais, teachers, staff, family, friends and most importantly my fellow graduates.

For those of you who don't know who I am, my name is Emily Fitzell and I have been given the honour to speak as valedictorian.

Most of us have been together at Archie Stouffer since we were four and some of us arrived within the past few years, but it doesn't matter where you came from or when you came, what matters is that we're all here finishing together.

In the past 10 years we have all grown and changed thanks to our experiences and relationships we have had while at Archie. This is where we grew up, well most of us. We went from having launch monitors to being lunch monitors. We went from playing in the sand box to standing around in circles. We went from sitting criss-cross applesauce to sitting in a chair all day and we went from 2 + 2 to 15x-y+5, and don't ask me what that equals.

Our time here has been very memorable and not just because of the wonderful thing called COVID but because of the friendships we have built and experiences provided to us. Aside from our everyday classroom fun, some of the earlier memories that have stuck with me are our trips where we got to make and eat butter at the Pioneer Village and the splash pad at the Peterborough Zoo.

Our trip to Yearly was something many of us will never forget thanks to the cabin next to us being left unattended for the night and our many games of knee tag.

More recently playing sports that got a little too competitive, exploding pumpkins or watching Mak run down the bus lane every day because he is always late.

These memories and so many more we have made and shared will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

Archie has not only taught us the basic academics like math or science but over these years has also taught us valuable lessons in patience, collaboration, courage, confidence, compromise, perseverance and responsibility. All of these have helped us prepare for the last year or so as no one could have predicted that. We have gone from one routine to another, in school to online, over and over again. Just when we would get used to one routine we would have to switch to another one. This, my classmates, has taught us resilience and we nailed it.

Now as we sit here together let's think back to what it was like when we first walked into kindergarten. It was different and scary because we were walking into the unknown with lots of really tall people, but that's also where this chapter began. As Brian Falkner says "life is like a book", we are finishing up this chapter today and about to start writing the next.

I know most of us are feeling nervous for what is ahead, I know I am. We are once again heading into the unknown. But remember, we have done this every few years for the past ten. From the bottom of the "food chain" to the top, JK to Grade 3, back to the bottom for 4 and back up to top for 6, then once again back to the bottom in Grade 7 and now we have finally made it to the very top in Grade 8! Each came with nerves and excitement and its own challenges. Every time we did it we came out with more experience and knowledge than the time before. I am confident we will all do just fine entering into high school together.

I couldn't conclude my speech without giving thanks to the many people who have made the past few years memorable.

First, Michele and Sue, for always being that approachable and welcoming face of Archie.

Bird, always able to cheer us up and have fun.

Kern, always there for us no matter what time of the day or what our problem was.

Ms. Patterson, and her ability to make us understand school work when others made math look like chicken scratch.

Mr. Sales, for his candy.

Mr. Gervais for making us laugh and for continuously putting that chicken song we love so much into the announcements.

And of course, Ms. Austin for always getting us out of school work to help her with a project.

Before we leave today I want you to remember:

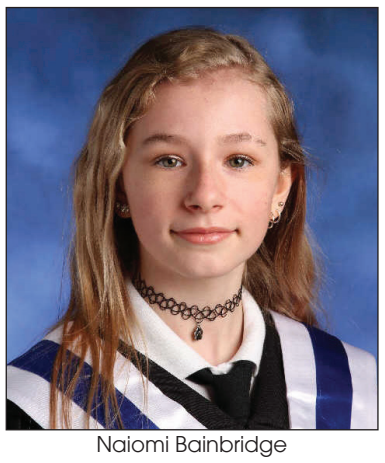
There are no regrets in life, just life lessons.

Don't wait for things to change, be the change.

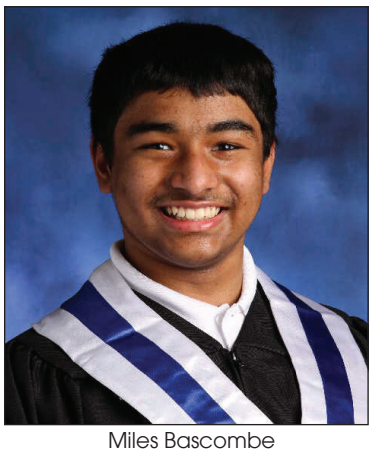
And most importantly, everything we do now is for our future, this is just the beginning.

Thank you,
Emily Fitzell

Emery Bagshaw



Naiomi Bainbridge



Miles Bascombe

Logan Beaver

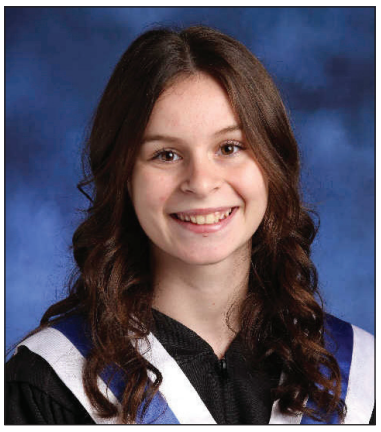
Logan Beers

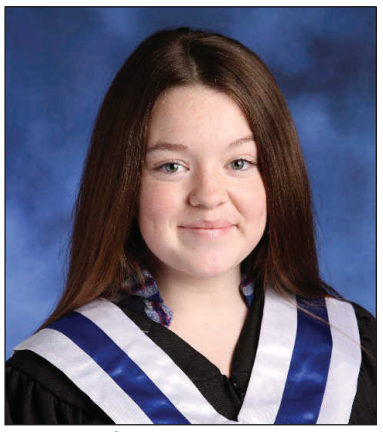
Simon Berthelot

Haiden Bird

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2021

Archie Stouffer Elementary School Gr. 8 Graduates


Eva Bliedung

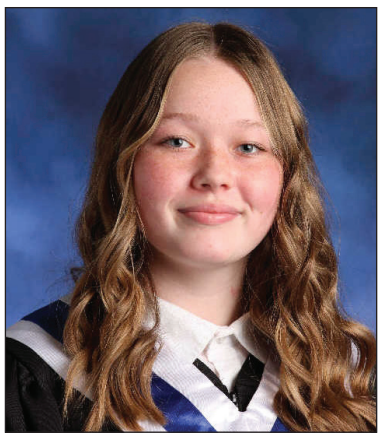

Chanel Bowman

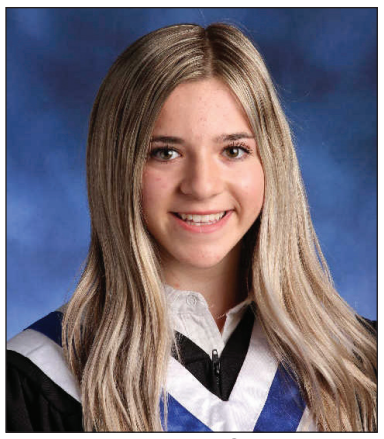
Skylar Brown

Kadin Card

Adam Davis

Dalton Fairey


Emily Fitzell


Kennedy Gill

Cole Hamilton

Chloe Hartwig

Stories
Our stories bring us together.
Our stories set us apart.
Our stories are ours to write.

On this day of your graduation as you are transitioning from one chapter of your education to another, let us consider how we are the author of our own stories, and let's do this through the lens of the four p's of storytelling: people, place, plot and purpose.

PEOPLE. When you came into the world you were born to a life filled with different characters: family, friends,and neighbours. Each of these people play different roles in your story. They may be a sidekick, a confidante, an antagonist, or an extra. Remember that every great story is filled with complex, believable characters, some of whom let us shine and some of whom challenge our way of seeing the world. Love and celebrate the former and recognize that the latter play an integral role in making us who we are.

The most important character of your story is the Protagonist and that my dear graduate is YOU. So, when you are considering your role, resist the temptation to create the perfect lead character. Remember that perfect is boring. and remember that without a protagonist there is no story, and so you must develop this character, YOUR CHARACTER, first.

PLACE. Many of you have spent the entirety of your stories thus far in the place where you were born, while others have travelled and arrived at this place over time. It is important to recognize that the setting of your story will change. Some places will become central to different chapters of your life, and others will be simple backdrops to the other parts of your story. Canadian author, Alice Munro wrote, "In your life there are a few places, or maybe only one place, where something has happened. And then there are the other places, which are just other places." But from each place you will learn. From each place you will take memories and from each place you will depart a different person. Be present in these places.

PLOT. The most interesting part of your story is the PLOT. The scariest part of your story is the same. You are writing your story in real time and plot twists and turns are bound to arise. Choices that you make will lead you in directions you may have never imagined. The trick is to be confident, be brave. Embrace opportunity. Look for adventure. Make the best choices with the information that you have and if you need more information take the time to seek it out so that you have what you need to make the best decision for you.

PURPOSE

This my graduates, this is the important question that will be pivotal to your life: What is the purpose of your story? Stories are created to entertain, they are written to inform and persuade, to elicit emotions. It is important for you to take your time to consider what purpose you wish your story to have. Your purpose will help lead you through your life, to make decisions based on your values and on your dreams. As you move through your story, fulfilling your purpose will help propel you forward in a beautiful way where the people, the places and the plot will come together to enrich your life and the lives of those around you.

I am so glad that you were a part of my story and I am so proud to have been a small part of yours.

Our stories bring us together.
Our stories set us apart.
Our stories are ours to write.

Principal Jane Austin

Quinn Higgins

Braidian Hudson

CLASS OF 2021 YOU DID IT

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2021

Archie Stouffer Elementary School Gr. 8 Graduates

Maya Johnson

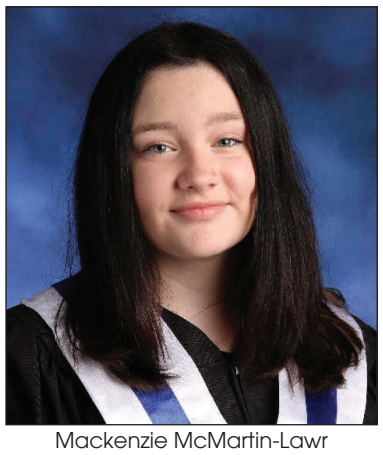
Jacy Lafontaine

Lee Nicole

Andy Lippolis

Tinkerbell Maes

Alissa Mantle


Mackenzie McMartin-Lawr

Devon Michael-Lyddiatt

Aiden Milley

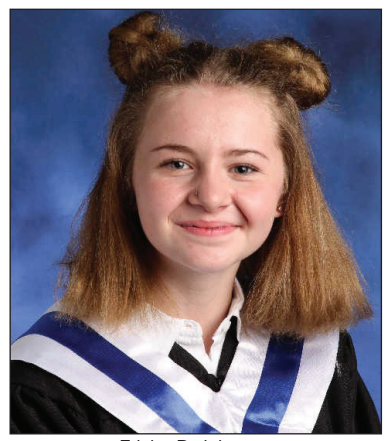
Aaron Neave

Nicholas Neville

Dinah Ogley

Mak Prentice

Wyatt Raposo


Trista Robinson

I extend my congratulations to all 2021 graduates for reaching today's milestone.

It was definitely uncharted water for you, your teachers and your parents, however you earned your diploma - it's YOURS and no one can take it away ---feel proud.

Thank you to all the parents I know. Each graduate has a special story to tell about how important your support has been in getting them to this time of graduation. Thanks to all the teachers,support staff and the leadership of school administration for providing you with the academic tools and guidance to ensure your success.

Graduates, I want you to remember that perseverance, resilience, tenacity and always a glimmer of hope got you through the last 12 to 16 months. Now is the time to "Play It Forward," and use what you learned to the best of your advantage. There are many red lights in our lives, the pandemic being the biggest in our lifetime. How we handle red lights when everything stops is a true test of our character. I learned from a great coach, Lou Holtz at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend Indiana: "It's not the load you are carrying that breaks you down, it's your attitude on how you carry it." Graduates, it is now a green light - step on the gas and "Play it Forward."

Graduates, stay positive find joy and never give up on hope. I ask you to dream more than others think is practical, to expect more than others think is possible, to work harder than the person next to you and believe there is no "extra in the extra mile."

I remind all of you to give thanks to those who gave you their unconditional love everyday. Make sure gratitude becomes a habit you practice for a lifetime -- it will keep you grounded because we all have so much to be grateful for.

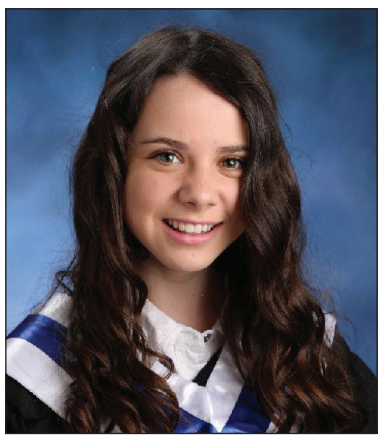
Graduates, life is precious, live it to the fullest. Be generous, be caring, speak kindly.

I wish you happiness in your new journey - it's time to "Play it Forward."

Trustee Gary Brohman

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2021

Archie Stouffer Elementary School Gr. 8 Graduates

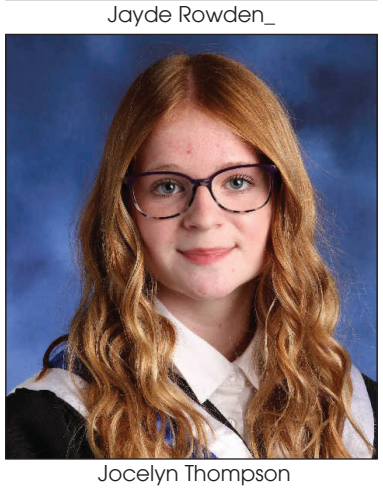

Jayde Rowden_

Bailey Shanks

Dominic Smith

Jazmin Smith

Clair Stewart


Jocelyn Thompson

Hayden Thorn

Spencer Upton

William Volochkov

Best wishes to all the graduates of 2021!

Gr. 8 Graduate Awards and Recipients

SES SCHOLARS - Achieved an average of 75 per cent or greater in their Gr. 8 Year

Simon Berthelot
Haiden Bird
Skylar Brown
Adam Davis
Kennedy Gill
Chloe Hartwig
Andy Lippolis
Aiden Milley
Wyatt Raposo
Bailey Shanks
William Volochkov

ASES HONOURS - Achieved an average of 80 per cent or greater in their Gr. 8 Year

Emery Bagshaw
Naiomi Bainbrige
Miles Bascombe
Eva Bliedung
Logan Beers
Emily Fitzell
Cole Hamilton
Quinn Higgins
Maya Johnson
Nicole Lee
Alissa Mantle
Mak Prentice
Jocelyn Thompson

The Arts
Naiomi Bainbridge
Nicole Lee

Mathematics
Mak Prentice
Emily Fitzell

English
Skylar Brown
Alissa Mantle

French
Nicole Lee
Cole Hamilton

Science
Logan Beers
Miles Bascombe

Geography
Emery Bagshaw
Jayde Rowden

History
Jocelyn Thompson
Quinn Higgins

Honour Awards

Academic Excellence Award
Presented to a student who has achieved academic honours as well as demonstrated a thirst for knowledge and a commitment to learning.
Recipients: Logan Beers, Emily Fitzell, Nicole Lee, Alissa Mantle

Arcadia Masonic Lodge Award
Presented to a student who has worked very hard to succeed.
Recipients: Dalton Fairey, Aaron Neave

Alan Walker Memorial Award
Presented to a student who has demonstrated citizenship and who has been of great assistance to staff and students of our ASES community.
Recipient: Miles Bascombe

Character Education Award
Presented to a student who has exemplified the TLDSB character traits during his or her school years.
Recipients: Adam Davis, Quinn HIggins

Sarah Bloomfield Award
Presented to a student who is fun loving, has a zest for life and is always a spark in the room.
Recipient: Andy Lippolis

Principal All-Round Student Award
Presented to a student who has demonstrated excellence in academics, leadership, citizenship and extra-curricular activities.
Recipient: Emery Bagshaw

Congratulations, to the Graduates of 2021
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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2021

Wilberforce Elementary School Gr. 8 Graduates

Hello classmates and families,

It is my pleasure to speak on your behalf for this, our Grade 8 graduation ceremony. For those of you who don't know me, I am Zakary Pastor. I would like to thank-you all for sharing this with us. I know it's not ideal, but we will still make memories today that my classmates and I will hold on to for a long time.

As you know Wilberforce is a very small school. This has its advantages, like more ice cream each, and it's disadvantages, like rain always cancelling gym class. One of the advantages is I can speak to each or my fellow grads individually. To Shay, I thank you for all the laughs. To Stephanie I thank-you for the funny stories and keeping Mr. Findeis on his toes. To Anna I thank you for your quiet kindness and quick wit. To Olivia, I thank-you for your kindness and all the memories, and to Micheal I thank you for always being there to help, with tech and pretty much anything else. And Bailey you suck, you left me half way through the year.

To Mr. Findeis thank you for being my teacher for the last three years, and molding everyone into the wonderful people we have become. These past years would not have been the same without all of you.

As a group, we sure have had some experiences. One, however, always seems to have been consistent, and that is how weird Mr. Findeis is. The best example I can think of is his overwhelming love for his magnets, or Pablo, the mean parrot.

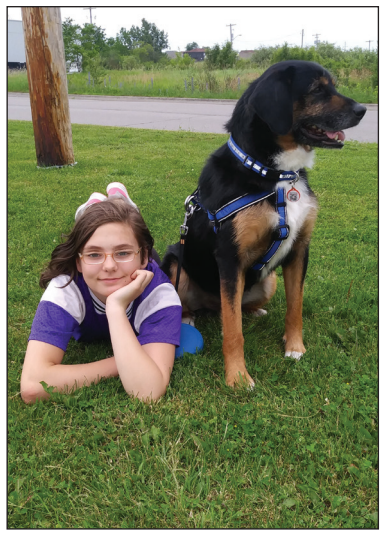
They say it takes a village to raise a child, and I think the village of Wilberforce ES proves this. I would like to thank Mrs. Pergolas, Mr. Jessup, Ms. Nottage, Mr.Findeis, Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Fournier, Mrs Higgins, Mr. Plumb, and our families, who are always there for us, and, last of all, all the graduates!

Thank-you to Mrs. Metcalfe for the opening slide show, and Mrs. Fournier, Mrs. Davies, and Mr. Brohman for their words of encouragement and wisdom.

We have all heard "It's okay to not know but it's not okay to not try," once or twice by now. I always thought Mr. Findeis always just used this as a way to get us to do some work but, upon thinking about this while writing this speech, I think it holds true for a lot of our lives as well. Elementary school took us a long time to get through but now we are off to bigger and better things, I know that all of you have what you'll need to make the world a better place. Have a great summer and I can't wait to see what high school and the future holds for all of us!

Here is to a better 2021/2022. Good luck, and most of all, have fun in high school.

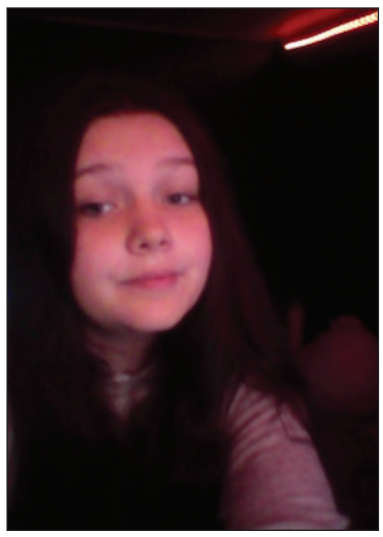
All the best,
Zak
Valedictorian



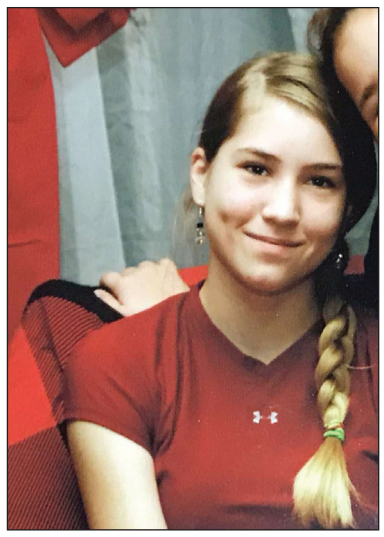
A. MacFarlane

Micheal Dewitt

Olivia Brown



Shalynn Badger



Stephanie Rogers

Zakary Pastor

No photo: Autumn Connolly

Hello, Grade 8 graduates, and congratulations.

It is my pleasure to have this opportunity to offer you a brief address as you meet this important milestone in your educational journey. You have faced many challenges and many changes over the years and now you are coming to a very important transition as you move on to high school.

For some of you, I have known you since junior kindergarten and for others just a few short months but what I do know is that each and every one of you has great potential to do whatever it is that you hope and wish to do in the future.

I want to offer you a small bit of advice. I have a small poster in my office and the poster says, "our greatest glory is not in never failing but in rising every time we fall." These words of wisdom are not my own. They come from a very famous ancient Chinese philosopher and what this means is that we are always going to stumble and fall and have challenges and face things that are difficult. For some of you this may happen as you move on to high school but remember when we face things that are difficult and challenging and we overcome these things, and we rise up from this fall, this is our greatest glory! I have this quote in my office because it reminds me of that each and every day, and I want to remind you of that as you move on.

It has been an honour and a privilege to have been a part of your educational journey all of these years and I wish you all the very best as you move forward into high school.

Elaine Fournier
Principal

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J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School Gr. 8 Graduates

Graduates, families and friends,

It has been my privilege to serve you as your Principal of JD Hodgson Elementary School this year.

First and foremost, congratulations, Class of 2021. We are so proud of all you have accomplished and persevered through.

I know that this is likely not the grade 8 year or graduation that you imagined it might be. It's ok to be disappointed if you are. I also wish we could celebrate differently together, and there are many things about this pandemic that are just not fair.

Unfairness and injustice have been brought to light in many places throughout this pandemic. But we have also seen courageous and brave people confront this injustice too, including here at JDH!

Many of you, despite needing to stay in cohorts and maintain physical distance, found ways to be leaders and make this school a great place for others. Whether it was Erica and Sierra running Battle of the Books, or Annabelle organizing Spirit Days, Colby shovelling sidewalks and entrance ways, or Magnum sporting a Chester Cheetah outfit on those spirit days, your character and citizenship could not be masked.

And in February, during Black History Month, when you saw injustice in the exclusion of Lesley Tashlin and Taly WIlliams from the Arena Wall and wrote to Town Council and campaigned for change and for what you believed was right, you led this whole town and showed us the way to what's right. Because of this, and things I've seen and heard from all our graduates this year, I am hopeful about our future and excited to see what change you'll bring next as you move "down the hill" to HHSS.

Can you believe, grads, that it was 10 years ago you started this journey in kindergarten. Think of all you have learned and all you have accomplished in this time. So while tonight, the spotlight is on you, it is also important to be humble and grateful. So take a moment to reflect on those ten years, and reflect on those that have made a difference for you. I encourage you to think about how you might express your gratitude for their influence and inspiration -- some of those people may not even know the difference they have made on your lives.

Grade 8 graduation is a rite of passage, marking a time when we formally leave one stage of life and enter into another. In our culture, grade 8 graduation is often regarded as the end of childhood and beginning of adolescence, when our youth take a significant step towards adulthood. This is certainly something to celebrate, and so, we hope that wherever you are, whoever you are with, that you are celebrating today.

We hope that you enjoy this ceremony that our staff have worked hard on for you, and we hope to see you tomorrow when you come to JDH to receive your diploma and awards, take some pictures, so we can celebrate a little bit in person too.

Congratulations once again, grads! You've earned it.

David Waito
Principal

Anabel Acero

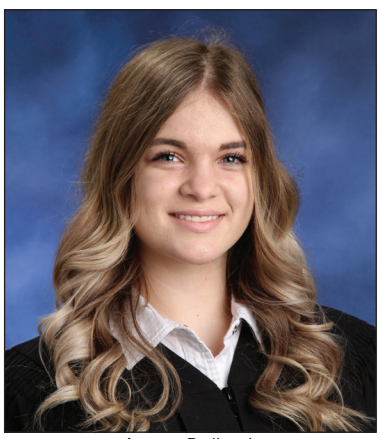
Lauren Ackerblade

Braiden Bailey

Kaeden Barnett

Annabelle Borgdorff

Weston Bowker


Avery Bullock

Logan Burke

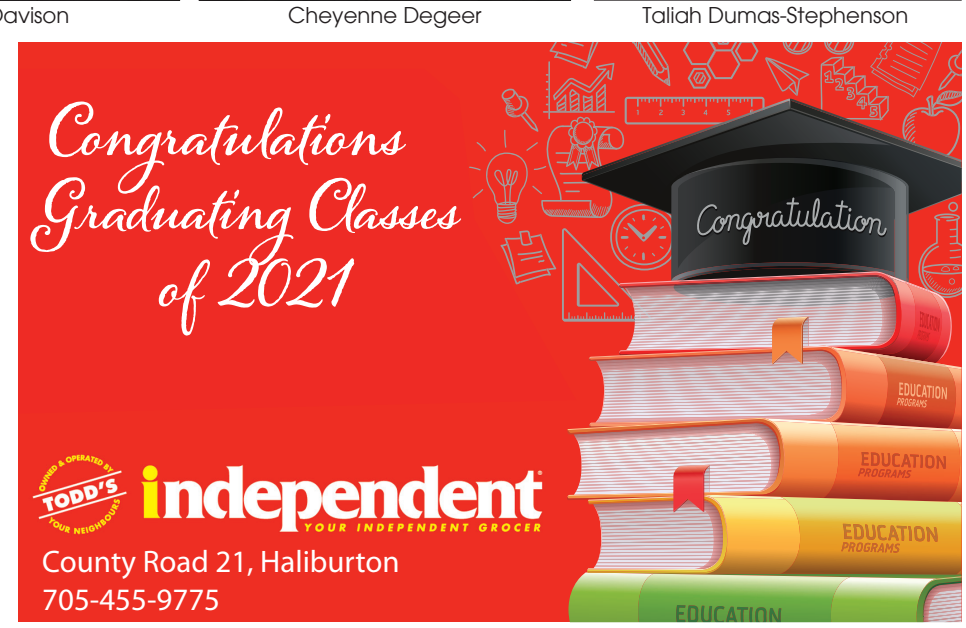
Colby Coumbs

Violet Crete

Emma Davidson-Collins

Hailey Davison

Cheyenne Degeer



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2021

J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School Gr. 8 Graduates

Lillie Fendley

Gracie Griffith

Dylan Grooms

Teagan Hamilton

Erika Hoare

Logan Keller

Rylan Keller

Skye Knight

Mason Kooistra

Graydon Kubinec

Isaac Lee

Skye MacArthur

J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School student Teagan Hamilton, who is ready for the next chapter of her education, is this year's valedicatorian. /DARREN LUM Staff

Fellow students , teacher and staff.

First thing I would like to congratulate all of the graduates. I know this is probably not what you imagined for your Grade 8 grad. But don't let that bring you down. You all have worked so hard to get here, there may have been some times where you never thought you would get here but you did.

Secondly, I would like to thank the staff at JDH. I have had many people help me throughout the years at JDH. You are all part of the reason that I am here today, and I thank all the teachers that I have had in the past five years. You all played a role in my time at JDH. You have all taught me to be respectful , kind and accepting . That's what I think being a Jaguar is.

Personally I can't believe that we are already graduating from Grade 8 . It feels like we were just in kindergarten yesterday playing and learning the alphabet and colours and playing with toys. These last 10 years have all taught us something. That nothing always stays the same, there are always things that will change and we have to learn to adapt to the changes and keep moving forward. For example, we had to adapt to many changes this year that we never thought that we would have to, but these changes taught us new lessons and skills that could help us in the future.

There are so many great memories that I had at JDH. I really didn't start thinking about them until recently. I remember the fun memories that we had before the pandemic. One of those memories really popped back into my head. It was the last day of school before the world went into lockdown. We had this beach party in the gym at school, during the middle block. Everyone looked like they were having lots of fun. People were wearing their summer clothes even though it was still cold out cause it was March. There were people playing volleyball, and some people were dancing to the music that was playing. It feels like the last normal day before The Pandemic.

This past year has been one like no other. We have all lost something to this pandemic. But we have made it so far we can make it to the end. We may have not had the last year of elementary school look the way that we thought it would look but we still managed to have fun while still following all the safety measures.

Once again I would like to finally congratulate all the Grade 8s - you made it. You are going to high school next year, and we have all worked hard to get here. I still find it hard to believe that we are going to high school next year. I don't know about you but it's just another change that we will have to adapt to.

Teagan Hamilton
Valedictorian

CLASS OF • CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES • 2021

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2021

J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School Gr. 8 Graduates

Kurtis Madill

Jessica McCready-DeBruin

Dagon McIvor

Grace Micallef

Liam Mills

Sierra Moore

Aiden Morris

Nathan Morrison

Magnum Moshenko

Paytra Mylan-Goulet

Cohen Nimigon

Parker Pietryszyn

Beckam Reynolds

Cayden Russell

Hannah Sharp

Luke Smolarz

Jaylynn Snider

Addison St Cyr

Daniel Stephen

Senaia Stewart

Ethan Thomas

Jackson Titus

Logan Verstege

Sirena Weatherbee-McMullen

Tea Yates

J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School Gr. 8 Graduate Awards and Recipients

Academic Excellence
Graydon Kubinec
Cheyenne Degeer
Teagan Hamilton

Outstanding Distinction
Hannah Sharp
Sierra Moore
Parker Pietryszyn

Citizenship
Jackson Titus
Erika Hoare
Beckam Reynolds

2021 - Jaguar Spirit Award
Magnum Moshenko

OPC
Annabelle Borgdorff
Colby Coumbs

Rising Star
Braiden Bailey
Isaac Lee
Nathan Morrison

Visual Arts
Gracie Griffith
Téa Yates
Skye Knight
Annabelle Borgdorff
Paytra Mylan-Goulet

Media Arts
Parker Pietryszyn
Braiden Bailey
Annabelle Borgdorff
Lauren Ackerblade

Drama
Parker Pietryszyn
Rylan Keller
Gracie Griffith
Magnum Moshenko
Kaeden Barnett

English
Sirena Weatherbee-McMullen
Parker Pietryszyn
Cheyenne Degeer
Violet Crete
Skye MacArthur

French
Sierra Moore
Annabelle Borgdorff
Avery Bullock
Cheyenne Degeer

Geography
Hannah Sharp
Sierra Moore
Braiden Bailey
Parker Pietryszyn
Cheyenne Degeer

History
Graydon Kubinec
Nathan Morrison
Annabelle Borgdorff

Math
Magnum Moshenko
Teagan Hamilton
Sierra Moore
Cheyenne Degeer
Skye Knight

Music
Weston Bowker
Graydon Kubinec

HPE
Daniel Stephen
Cheyenne Degeer
Addison St Cyr

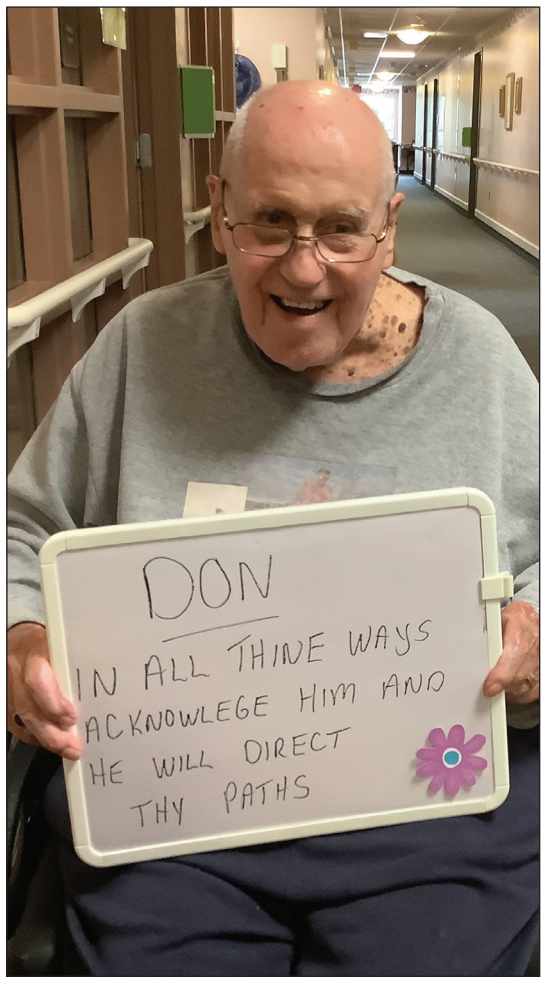
Science
Graydon Kubinec
Sierra Moore
Cheyenne Degeer
Colby Coumbs

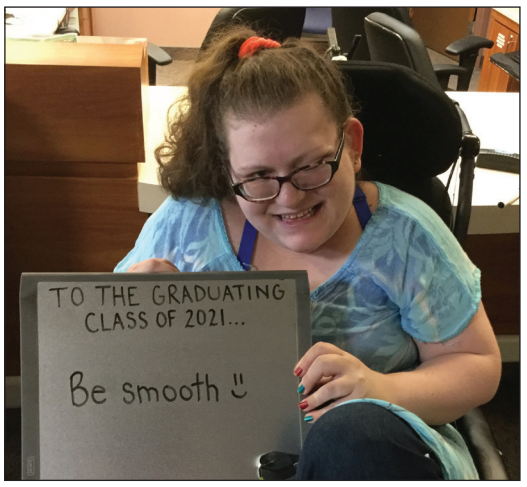
Dance
Teagan Hamilton
Avery Bullock
Skye MacArthur

Core French
Teagan Hamilton
Addison St Cyr
Hannah Sharp

Words of wisdom and advice for the graduates

Residents at Hyland Crest, Extendicare and Highland Wood share their words of wisdom and advice with the graduating class of 2021.





Wildlife in your backyard

Maggie Lawrence enjoys spending time walking around her property on Haliburton Lake, and taking pictures of all the wildlife she encounters. Left, she gets close enough to a deer without spooking it.

A couple of foxes pause for a moment while out in the wild.

A frog almost completely submerged beneath the water at Haliburton Lake.

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Thomas family turns tragedy into inspiring story of perseverance

MIKE BAKER
County Life Editor

Former Wilberforce resident Bob Thomas has had to live through every parent's worst nightmare. Now, he's using the pain and suffering brought on by the tragic loss of a child as fuel to push his province-wide ROCKRIDE fundraiser forward.

The ROCK, or Ride 4 Our Cancer Kids as it is otherwise known, is now entering its 18th year. The annual event raises money for Childhood Cancer Canada, which works with 17 children's hospitals nationwide to help kids who have been diagnosed with cancer.

Since the ROCK's inaugural event in 2004, it has raised more than $500,000.

As Thomas reflected on the overwhelming success of the ride in a recent interview with *CountyLife*, he looked back on the tremendous loss that precipitated it.

"This ride is really a memorial for my daughter, Samantha. She passed away three days before her third birthday, on May 18, 2003," Thomas said. "She was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic lymphoma in September 2002. She had a tumour the size of a grapefruit in her chest…"

After spending months visiting different hospitals – first Victoria Hospital in London, ON and, later, SickKids in Toronto – Thomas and his family, a wife and two other children, were given hope. After several rounds of chemotherapy, and a successful bone marrow transplant, in December 2002 it looked like Samantha was in the clear.

Bob Thomas is proud of all that he has achieved in the 18 years since he launched ROCKRIDE, a fundraiser for Childhood Cancer Canada. This year, he's reconnecting with his roots and bringing the event to the Highlands. /Submitted photo

Then, with her immune system still recovering, she contracted a deadly respiratory syncytial virus [RSV]. Samantha was placed in a medically induced coma and put on a respirator. She would pass away a few days later.

Thomas remembers absolutely everything about that day. He and his wife were staying at the Ronald McDonald House close to SickKids when they got the emergency call at 4 a.m.

see page 21

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ROCKRIDE fundraiser to benefit Childhood Cancer Canada

from page 20

"My heart… I just remember sprinting over to the hospital, going up in the elevator. When we got there, there were lights flashing above Samantha's room, and doctors and nurses running around… Four hours later, we were driving back home with an empty car seat," Thomas said. "On that drive home, I was just thinking 'why? Why is this happening? How can something like this happen?"

He continued, "I suppose that motivated me and inspired me to do something, to try and make a difference. I've been organizing these rides ever since."

The first event, which took place in Sarnia, raised $13,000. A year later, that amount doubled to $26,000. Today, ROCKRIDE typically brings in anywhere between $35,000 and $40,000.

That's particularly impressive when you consider that the ride, in typical years, takes place over the course of a single day and tends to draw around 100 participants. The event has evolved, and moved, over the years, with rides taking place in Sarnia, Cambridge and Niagara Falls.

The 2021 ride will be the first in over two years, with Thomas forced to cancel his 2020 event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While it was touch and go for a while whether he would be able to host an event this year, he came up with a new format that not only ensured the ROCK would move forward, but allowed Thomas to return to his roots in the Highlands.

"I couldn't plan for our normal event this year, because I didn't want to be in a similar position to last year, when I had to cancel. So I came up with something a little different, something that hopefully means even more people will take part this year," Thomas said.

This year, ROCKRIDE will take place in three different communities – Sarnia, Niagara Falls and Haliburton County. Rather than taking place on a single day, it will run for two months – from June 4 to July 26 – and will involve participants visiting different landmarks within their chosen community.

"We're doing a ROCK tour this year. Rather than having everyone going out together in a large group, we're encouraging individuals or families to go out on their own," Thomas said. "We've identified different landmarks that people can take selfies in front of… It's nice for us to open up the event to Haliburton [County], as all of the nice roads in Ontario are up there in the Highlands, and in cottage country. Having friends in the area, and with people always visiting, it made sense to us to launch a north region this year."

Included on the list of local landmarks to visit is the tank out front of the Haliburton Legion on Mountain Street, and the plane and train located on the grounds of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

For every selfie an individual takes in front of a landmark [limited to one per landmark] they can fill out a ballot online to be in with a chance of winning a grand prize - $1,000 in gas cards. An additional ballot is given to registered riders for every $25 they raise in pledges.

Thomas hopes this year's event will raise around $30,000. As of press time, he was more than half way there, with over $15,000 already brought in.

"I'm very proud of what we have been able to accomplish with the ROCK. To take something so negative, something that, frankly, almost took me out, and then use that as the fuel to power us to keep going and make something positive out of it, I'm very proud of that," Thomas said. "My family and I have weathered this thing together. The ROCK is our mission. It's our purpose."

To learn more, or to register for the 2021 ROCKRIDE, visit www.rockride.com.

Community Events

Want to get your event in Community Calendar? It's free! Contact Pat at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

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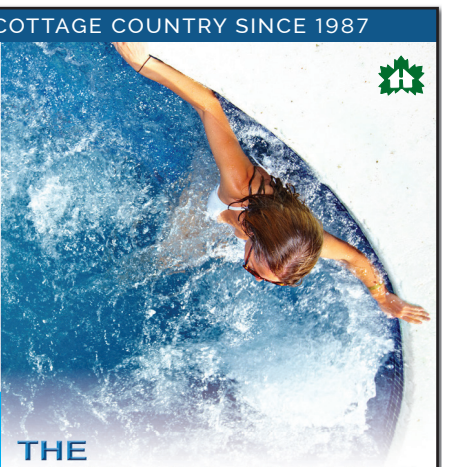

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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

DYSART ET AL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Seasonal Arena Operator

The Municipality of Dysart et al is seeking a seasonal arena operator to join our team. A detailed job descriptions is available at **https://www.dysartetal.ca/en/municipal-government/careers.aspx** for your review. The rate of pay is $21.20/hour for 40 hours a week up to 43 weeks.

Please submit a resume and cover letter, preferably by email to the attention of **Human Resources at hr@dysartetal.ca.** This position will remain open until filled.

Alternatively, your submission may be mailed to P.O. Box 389, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0.

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.

DYSART ET AL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Summer student

The Municipality of Dysart et al is seeking a summer student to join our team. A detailed job descriptions is available at **https://www.dysartetal.ca/en/municipal-government/careers.aspx.**

Please submit a resume and cover letter, preferably by email to the attention of Human Resources at hr@dysartetal.ca. This position will remain open until filled.

Alternatively, your submission may be mailed to P.O. Box 389, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0.

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.

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Onondaga Camp, Minden,
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2021 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE ALTITUDE STOCK #21073
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Plus HST & Licensing

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OUR PRICE $21,999
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AWD / CLEAN CARFAX / REMOTE START / SATELLITE RADIO / BLUE-TOOTH / CRUISE CONTROL / PWR WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS!
OUR PRICE $12,999
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ROCKIN' AND ROLLIN': Children's entertainer David Archibald kept on rolling Friday night as the featured performer at the Music by the Gull free concert. Much to the delight of the youngsters, he opened the evening wheeling through the audience on roller blades as he sang and played the guitar. The evening also included a fund-raising hot dog barbecue which garnered close to $800 for the Hospitals building projects. Unfortunately, due to a sudden rain storm, the performance was cut short. Music by the Gull will not be on this Friday, because of the Heineken Yard which will take place on Main Street July 30. The free concerts return August 6 with vocalist Zoe Chilco.

Board will offer adult education program

The "Three R's" are becoming accessible to Haliburton County residents young and old this fall, as the first adult education centre is opened at the former Victoria Street School in Haliburton.

Earlier in the spring, the Trillium Lakelands District School Board decided to implement the adult education program in Haliburton County. Part of the board's mandate is to ensure that programs are available to all three former districts. Adult education has been offered in Victoria County for four and a half years and in Muskoka District for five and a half years.

Laura Willis will be co-ordinating the Haliburton County courses, which will focus on math, English and science skills. The courses are open to everyone, but, it is expected students will use opportunity to gain credits to earn a secondary school diploma. Willis has been a teacher at HHSS for almost 25 years.

The process of organizing and setting up the adult education centre is in its infancy, and Willis has begun meeting with Adult Education Principal Greg Einarson and Vice-Principal Ward Levine to iron out the problems encountered in setting up a totally new program. Everyone is confident that the programs will open by some time in September.

The expansion of the educational mandate of the school board has also created a partnership within the community as the Victoria Street School will be the home for the Sir Sandford Fleming College Academic upgrading program, headed by Bob Smith.

Students can attend the college courses first. Their programs are designed for individuals who may need specialized literacy or math skills. This training will be required before completing the high

(more on page 4)

Laura Willis and Bob Smith unwrap some of the computers at the Victoria Street School, the future site of the Higlands Community Learning Centre.

Look for us Tuesday next week

Due to the Civic Holiday next Monday. the next edition of The Times will be published on Tuesday August 3. Classified and display advertising deadline remain the same, Thursday at noon and 4 p.m. respectively. The Times staff hope you have an enjoyable and safe holiday weekend.

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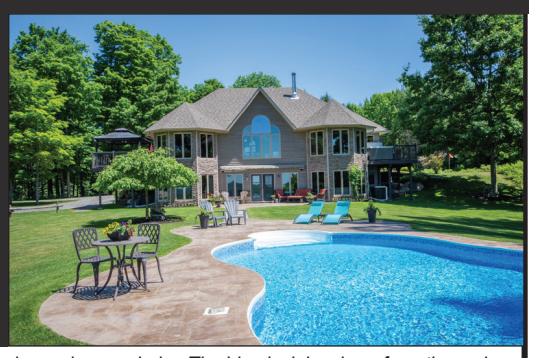
KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE $1,499,000

THE RE/MAX COLLECTION



Custom-built home overlooking prestigious Kashagawigamog Lake. The big-sky lake views from the main floor are breathtaking! This property checks so many boxes: 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms to comfortably accommodate family and friends. Spacious great room with floor to ceiling windows and a cozy fireplace. Kitchen features solid knotty white oak cabinetry, granite counters and an island cook-top, to appease the most discerning of cooks. Master bedroom with a view, private deck, and hot tub. Walkout lower level to heated in-ground pool. 3 bay garage/workshop and so much more! This stunning spa-like property also features one-half ownership of a west-facing waterfront lot with hard sandy entry to Kashagawigamog Lake.

IRONDALE RIVER $759,000

First time being offered for sale! This beautiful 3-bdrm 1 bath year-round home or cottage. With over 200 feet of frontage and 3.24 acres, this level property provides ample privacy. Sand riverfront shoreline is perfect for swimming. This home was built in 2015 and offers a spacious kitchen finished with wood cabinetry, soft close drawers, ceramic flooring, and a large island. The formal dining room is the perfect size for your family's harvest table. Sunken living room with walkout to the large front deck. The unfinished lower-level waits your finishing touch to create more space for your family.

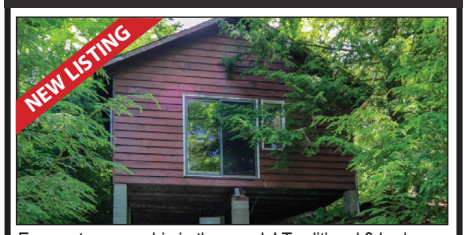
MAIN STREET REZ $529,000

A one-of-a-kind unique investment opportunity currently filling a great need for affordable housing in the community. "Main Street Rez" offers two residential condo units and comes fully rented and provides a substantial income per month for the owner. The 24-hour inhouse maintenance is a bonus, this will keep you stress free from the daily coordination and maintenance of condo ownership.

GELERT ROAD $499,000

Fantastic 3 bdrm, 2 bath family home located in the heart of Haliburton. Perfect for the outdoor enthusiast. Tranquil wooded backyard backs onto the Haliburton Rail Trail. Enjoy walking, four-wheeling, and snowmobiling for year-round enjoyment – head out your back door, just hop on and go! Convenient low-maintenance home. Kitchen features a generous sized island, inside entry to the attached garage, and a walkout to the back deck. Sunroom off the front is a bright and breezy space. Walking distance to schools, shopping, hospital, recreation and Head Lake Park, this is the perfect spot to settle in. This lovely family home is waiting for you.

TROOPER LAKE $349,000



Escape to your cabin in the woods! Traditional 3-bedroom seasonal cottage nestled amongst the trees overlooking Trooper Lake. The open concept kitchen and living room have tranquil lake views. Cute little bunkie provides extra sleeping space. 100 feet of water frontage with ample privacy, private dock. Natural shoreline with deep water off the dock. Great opportunity to get into the cottage market. This property is being sold "As is where is".

CONTAU LAKE ROAD $329,000

The perfect starter home or weekend retreat! This beautiful park-like setting offers 1.51 acres and a level, open yard. 1-bdrm & 2 baths. Open concept, pine kitchen and living area creates a welcoming space. The main floor also features a 2-pc powder room while the second floor offers one bedroom, a large sitting area with potential to be converted to a 2nd bdrm and a 4pc bath. Recent upgrades include a new propane furnace, steel roof, and hot water tank. Drilled well and septic. The log building is well built and awaits your finishing touches (flooring needed in living room and bedrooms).

COMMERCIAL - EAST ROAD $135,000

It's all about the location! This commercial lot is ideally located in the heart of Carnarvon and situated on the corner of Highway 118 and East Road. The property features a charming seasonal building that dates back to the 1800's. There is hydro servicing the building but no water or septic. Tons of storage space in the attached oversized single garage with poured concrete floor. Commercial zoning and great exposure provide endless possibilities for your business.

VACANT LOTS

LITTLE GULL LAKE 0.78AC
$355,000

LOUISE LANE 35+AC
$275,000

STILLS ROAD 1.2AC
$152,500

NORT[SOLD]8AC
$135,000

BASSHA[SOLD] ROAD
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